



## **Notice to the public of new proposed consular fees**

The Department of State is required by law to periodically review the Schedule of Consular Fees to ensure that the fees collected recover the costs of providing these services. The last major update to the Schedule of Fees was in 2005. To that end, the Department conducts a study every few years to determine the appropriateness of each fee and whether any fees should be increased, decreased, or eliminated, or whether new fees should be added. This way, services of direct benefit to individuals, organizations, or groups are paid for by the users rather than by taxpayers in general.

On February 9, 2010, the Department of State published the proposed fee changes in the Federal Register. After publication, the public has 30 days in which to comment on the proposed changes. These comments will be thoroughly reviewed to help determine whether any changes to the proposed rule are warranted as a result. Thereafter, the Department will publish a final rule, setting a date on which the Schedule of Fees changes will take effect. These fees are "proposed," as they will not take effect until after the Department reviews the public comments received. The Department may make further changes to the fees depending on those comments.

For more information, please consult the Department of State's website at [http://www.travel.state.gov/news/news\\_1735.html](http://www.travel.state.gov/news/news_1735.html). Comments on these proposed fees are welcome and should be submitted directly to the Department, not to the Embassy, by:

- ❖ Persons with access to the Internet may view the notice and submit comments by going to the regulations.gov web site at: <http://www.regulations.gov/index.cfm>
- ❖ e-mail: [fees@state.gov](mailto:fees@state.gov) You must include the RIN (1400-AC58) in the subject line of your message.